

*Abstract*

The present application is directed to the discovery that hedgehog gene products, and signal transduction pathways involving hedgehog, are involved in maturation of T lymphocytes.

- 5 Certain aspects of the invention are directed to preparations of hedgehog polypeptides, agonists, antagonists, or other molecules which regulate *patched* or *smoothened* signalling, and their uses as immunomodulatory agents.

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